

## Message Text

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73

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06

SAM-01 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07

NEA-10 PA-01 PRS-01 /114 W  
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R 261816Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6934

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 17124

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG UK

SUBJECT: OCTOBER 19 EC ENERGY COUNCIL

REF: LONDON 16531, BRUSSELS 10398, BONN 17866

1. IN COMMENTING ON EC ENERGY COUNCIL, MIERS (FCO ENERGY) OBSERVED THAT COUNCIL WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN RESTRICTED TO GENERAL DISCUSSION OF ENERGY MATTERS. HOWEVER, AFTER SIMONET BROACHED IDEA OF TIME TABLE INVOLVING EARLY APPROVAL OF "RIPEST" ISSUES SUCH AS EMERGENCY SHARING, EURATOM LOANS, COKING COAL SUBSIDIES  
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AND A URANIUM EXPLORATION PROGRAM, SECSTATE BENN FELT

COMPELLED TO INTERVENE AND STATE THIS APPROACH WAS NOT FACING UP TO BASIC ISSUES. IF EC WANTED TO ENCOURAGE DEVELOPMENT OF ITS OWN ENERGY RESOURCES, IT HAD TO ADOPT MEASURES ALREADY AGREED ON IN PRINCIPLE, SUCH AS AN MSP WHICH WOULD HELP COAL, GAS AND NUCLEAR ENERGY AS WELL AS OIL. BENN HAD PROPERLY ASSERTED EC NEEDS TO MAKE A POLITICAL DECISION TO FOSTER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT; BALANCE OF ITEMS CONSIDERED BEING OF PERIPHERAL IMPORTANCE FOR COMMUNITY. MIERS CONFIRMED DANES AND BRITISH OPPOSED ADOPTION OF EURATOM LOAN SCHEME IN ISOLATION FROM OTHER MEASURES DESIGNED TO STIMULATE INDIGENOUS EC ENERGY PRODUCTION.

2. MIERS SAID REPORTS UK WOULD UNDERTAKE BILATERAL TALKS WITH FRENCH ON MSP WERE GREATLY EXAGGERATED. HE INTIMATED BENN MAY HAVE RATHER CARELESSLY SINGLED OUT GOF AND GIVEN TOO MUCH IMPORTANCE TO ANGLO-FRENCH TALKS IN SPEAKING TO PRESS. BENN DID NOT REALLY MEAN TO CONVEY AN IMPRESSION THAT UPCOMING TALKS INVOLVING BENN, SECSTATE FOR INDUSTRY VARLEY AND FRENCH COUNTERPART D'ORNANO WOULD BE HEAVILY FOCUSSED ON MSP. THIS CERTAINLY IS NOT SO WITH REGARD TO EARLY NOVEMBER TALKS PM CALLAGHAN WILL HAVE IN PARIS.

3. MIERS CONFIRMED BRITISH PREFER STEP BY STEP PRAGMATIC APPROACH TO EC ENERGY POLICY ISSUES. BUT, AT SAME TIME, HE INTIMATED THAT MINI-PACKAGE ENCOMPASSING DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE MEASURES SUCH AS MSP MAY BE EVENTUAL RESULT OF CURRENT IMPASSE.

ARMSTRONG

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## Message Attributes

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